

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, October 4. 1711.

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**I** Have frequently from the beginning of this Paper, printed such Letters as have been sent me by sundry Hands, on the publick Subjects this Paper has Treated of, without Enquiring much into the Design of the Senders; for let their End be what it will, I endeavour to make such use of them, as may answer the publick Design of this Paper, viz. Publick Information; and tho' sometimes the People who send these Letters are not pleas'd, I take it as it falls.

The several other Writers of the Age, taking this Method also, an unhappy Practice has been charg'd upon them, of first

Writing Letters to themselves, and then answering them in Print; whether this Charge be true on them, or not, I will not answer for it; but for myself, I have been so far from having occasion to do so, that I have thrown by a monstrous Heap of such Letters, wholly unanswer'd; and have, of late, put so general a neglect on Letters sent me, that People have thought themselves ill Treated by me in it, and of late, I have been less troubled with these Importunities, than I us'd to be. — However, that I may not be thought Rude, I shall, to such as are judiciously Written, shew more Respect for the future — And this makes

makes me resolve to answer some Letters just now, which I have had some Time by me; and I begin with two or three, who have been very importunate for Answers some time, as follows.

S I R,

I Am one of those they call Whigs, and consequently begin to grow something out of Fashion with my Neighbours, tho' that is no uneasiness to me; but my chief difficulty is, to know how, as a true Englishman, and as one that is touch'd, I hope, with a Principle of Love to my Native Country, Zeal for its Liberties, and for the Settlement of the Protestant Succession, I ought to behave myself, as to the late Changes in the Ministry, and as to the present publick Management of Affairs? I am no Turn-Coat, nor am I weary or ashamed of my Principles, yet I cannot go that length as I see some go, as well in their Disapproving, and Opposing, as well as others in their Applauding and Justifying, either the Change, the Necessity of it, or the Proceedings in publick Affairs after it: I wish you would give some Hints with Plainness and Impartiality, how an honest Man ought to behave himself, with Respect to the New Ministry.

Your Humble Servant,

F. R.

Another Letter which I am willing to speak to, is of a quite differing Nature, and yet requires an Answer; the Enquiry is something Curious, and may admit a nicer Answer however, than I shall give it; the Letter is thus.

Ms. Review,

THOSE People who have pretended to make Calculations of the Numbers of People in Cities and Kingdoms, and of the Greatness of Towns, by what they call Political Arithmetick, have generally done it by the Numbers of Births and Burials; and this they have done, without any Regard, or Allowance to the

“ difference of the Climate, manner of Living, or Fruitfulness of the Inhabitants, which I take to be a most unaccountable Error; since as the Temperance, the Diet, and the Way of Living of some People, contributes, without Question, to the length of their Lives, so the Climate, the Air, and the Soil, have their Share in it; and it seems to me, that there can be no just Calculation made, without Allowances for these Things: My Question therefore is this.

“ Whether London or England buries more or less People, in proportion to the Number of its Inhabitants, than Paris, Amsterdam, Madrid, Constantinople, or such other great Cities, take them where you please? And what may be the Reason of the difference?

“ Your Answer to this may be as diverting and useful to the Publick, as obliging to

Your Friend and Servant unknown,  
G. B.

The Third of these Letters, contains a Question altogether New, and which, tho' I shall make an Essay at, yet I will not pretend to be capable to give a decisive Answer to it; the Letter is thus:

S I R,

I Live remote from London, in a Country not all out unknown to you, still in that part of this Island, anciently, till ye Robb'd us of our Independent State, call Scotland, but that by the Way: I observe almost every Post, brings us Reports from you, of self-destroyers; such a Man has Hang'd himself, a Woman Drown'd herself; such a one has cut his own Throat, another has shot himself through the Head, another stabb'd himself into the Body, and the like; in short, it is my Opinion, that in your Nation of England there happens more self-Murders, than in all Europe besides: Pray let us have your Thoughts, both of the

“ Fa&



“ Fact and the Reasons of it, if you can ;  
 “ and you will very much oblige,

Your Humble Servant ;

*North Brissin.*

The Fourth Letter which is back'd with two more, which I omit, being from the same Person, is as follows, and I shall give the Answers to them in their Course, for this Paper will not admit them.

S I R,

“ SINCE you have lately promis'd  
 “ me in one of your *Reviews*, that you  
 “ would farther Treat of Dreams, Prophecies,  
 “ and Apparitions ; it is desir'd that  
 “ you would publish your Thoughts touch-  
 “ ing Apparitions of Witches, to the Per-  
 “ sons they have Bewitch'd ; and likewise  
 “ whether you are of *Webster's* Opinion,  
 “ concerning Witches, as is mention'd in  
 “ his Book Licensed by *Johns More, Sec.*  
 “ *Regis Vice-Praefet*, July 29. 1676. which  
 “ Book seems to be of no small Authority,  
 “ being an Answer to *Glanville*, one of the  
 “ same Society ; for otherwise, to what  
 “ purpose is the *Imprimatur* of a Society,  
 “ to a Book, if it be not that such Books be-  
 “ ing approv'd by those Societies, as the  
 “ best Judges of Matters relating to their  
 “ own Professions, the Vulgar Readers may  
 “ the better believe them, presuming that  
 “ Societies would not by their Licenses, as  
 “ their Representative, put an *Imprimatur*  
 “ upon Matters of Fact for undoubted  
 “ Truths, which they do not know or be-  
 “ lieve to be Truths, or do know or be-  
 “ lieve to be Lies : And the Thing certainly  
 “ must be very Notorious, or else the Roy-  
 “ al Society would never have consented to

“ publish to the World a Confutation of  
 “ one of their own Fellows, after so long  
 “ Time of Consideration, as from 68 that  
 “ *Glanville* wrote his, till 76 that *Webster*  
 “ wrote his ; which Confutation was, per-  
 “ haps design'd by them, that the Reader  
 “ might not be farther impos'd upon by  
 “ one of their own Fraternity ; and who  
 “ might think that *Glanville* had consulted  
 “ the Society, and that they had really ap-  
 “ prov'd, and would Patronize his Book, as  
 “ he was one of their Members ; so that  
 “ since *Glanville's* Book is an Answer to  
 “ *Scot's*, and *Webster's* to *Glanville's*, and  
 “ *More's Sadducismus Triumphatus* to *Web-*  
 “ *ster's* : And since besides a late Author,  
 “ namely, Baron *Laiboulan*, has affirm'd  
 “ in his Book of Travels Printed at London,  
 “ 1703. Vol. 2. Pag. 258. That none but  
 “ *Europeans* are capable to Credit such  
 “ Fantastical Stories, as that there are  
 “ Witches, Apparitions, &c.

“ This Question of Witchcraft is much  
 “ Controversed, and so intricate and ab-  
 “ struse, as perhaps you will think it no de-  
 “ spicable Subject for the Exercise of your  
 “ Pen in some of your *Reviews*, after you  
 “ have done with the *South-Seas*, and the  
 “ *Stock Jobbers* ; likewise a Review of the  
 “ 2d Sight, could not possibly miss but be  
 “ very Entertaining ; and indeed the No-  
 “ tices you had of Dangers that afterwards  
 “ happened to yourself, is, or looks some-  
 “ thing like the *second Sight*, and for that  
 “ Reason you may be the better able to  
 “ give a good Account of it.

Your Servant,

*Kendal.*

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